

## Part Three: Functions

### *11. Introduction*

To achieve its objectives for conservation of the natural and historic resources it manages, the Department undertakes a wide variety of activities, which are grouped and referred to as functions, e.g., indigenous species protection, recreation, animal pest control and legal protection.

The functions are discussed in this part of the CMS. The scope of each functional area is explained and the relevant legislation referred to. The Wellington Conservancy scene relevant to the function is outlined and the management issues which do or will have a major impact on the Department's management of each function are identified and discussed. Finally, the objectives and implementation provisions for achieving those objectives are set out.

The functional sections have been developed from an assessment of the management needs of all the areas managed by the Department, although the areas may not be individually mentioned. The Department's approach to an issue within an area will be guided by the directions established in the CMS and the relevant legislation.

To explain how all the functions of the Department are relevant to a specific area, consider a hypothetical wetland which has threatened bird and plant species, is surrounded by farmland, and has high rabbit and rat populations which are affecting the threatened species.

The Management Objectives may be:

1. Protect the natural functions and processes of the area and the threatened species present.
2. Enhance the wetland.
3. Improve public understanding of the wetland and its natural resources.
4. Provide opportunities for the public to visit the area to observe bird species.

Achievement of these objectives would involve functions and specific actions of the Department depicted in Table 5.

*Table 5:*  
Functions and Actions

<b>Animal Pest Control</b>	<p>Seek to eradicate rats and rabbits.</p> <p>Fence the wetland area to exclude any domestic stock.</p>
<b>Research</b>	<p>Monitor threatened species and learn about their ecology to identify management needed.</p>
<b>Statutory Advocacy</b>	<p>Advocate that a buffer zone be established and protect by legal mechanisms and legal protection if necessary.</p> <p>Advocate for land uses in the wetland catchment, which will not have an adverse impact on water quality and quantity in the wetland. Discuss options with local government.</p>
<b>Restoration</b>	<p>Undertake planting programme in buffer zone to reinstate indigenous vegetation, especially species which enhance threatened bird habitat.</p>
<b>Plant Pest Control</b>	<p>Monitor exotic plant species and eradicate those which inhibit growth of indigenous plants or are noxious weeds.</p>
<b>Recreation</b>	<p>Build a boardwalk and hide to allow public to observe threatened species, once the species are well-established.</p>
<b>Public Awareness</b>	<p>Publish written material about the area, erect signs and involve local community in the restoration programme.</p>